

*A LETTER from a Merchant at Amsterdam, to  
his Correspondent in London.*

*Amsterdam. Nov. 14. 1718. O. S.*

S I R,

I H A V E received your Letter, with the King of *England's* Speech to his Parliament, and also the Addresses of the Two Houses. I cannot forbear telling you, That we are here surprized, to find the principal Reasons given for a War by *England* upon *Spain*, to be for the Advantage of Trade: And it is new to us to hear, by his Majesty's Speech, That *Spain* has broke thro' all their Engagements relating to Commerce with *England*; and, That the *English* Naval Force acted in an hostile Manner against *Spain*, to protect and defend the *English* Trade, which, 'tis pretended, has, in every Branch, been violently oppressed. The *English* were always the most favoured, by those People, of any Nation; and they have had in *Spain*, and its Dominions, a greater Consumption of their Woollen and other Manufactures, Fish, &c. than in any other Part of the World. The Returns from thence to *England* are in Silver, Gold, Cochineal, Indigo, Oyl and other Materials for Manufactures; And no Manufacture is imported into *England* from *Spain*.

Besides, *England* has the sole vending of Negroes in the *Spanish America*.

And they have also another Priviledge peculiar to themselves, the vending annually within the *South-Sea Company* Priviledge, 600 Tons of Woollen Goods and other Merchandizes at 50 per Cent. less Duty, Out and Home, than any other Nation in the World.

These great Advantages which have been look'd upon by all Nations, and in this Place particularly, with Envy, strikes me with Astonishment, that *England* should be the Principal, and first to commit Acts of Hostility upon their natural Ally and best Friend.

We hear 'tis alledged the *Spaniards* took some Ships, whose Crew cut Timber and other Wood upon their *American* Continent, which is no more than Just; and they serve all Nations so who are in that Circumstance, looking upon People guilty of those Practices, as Thieves and Pirates; and they have ever done the same in all Reigns, Judging the Persons taken in those Facts, according to the ancient Rules in *Spain*, settled by their Laws, for the Judging of Pirates.

Besides, here, we never heard of any previous Demands made, nor a reasonable Time given for Satisfaction, upon these Complaints of Trade.

If every Nation that had Disputes and Cavils about Commerce, should, without allowing sufficient Time to compose such Differences, instantly make War, the World would soon be in Confusion, and there would never be a lasting Peace, which, 'tis said, is now aim'd at.

By this War, we in this Place, cannot see what *England* can get.

'Tis certain, besides the Loss of the *Spanish* Trade, the *English* Merchants cannot Trade to any Part of the World, especially to *Italy* and *Turky*, during the War; because the Merchants in this Place, and in all these Provinces, *Hamburgh*, *Portugal*, &c. who are in perfect Peace, can Trade with most Places (Insurance and Freight Out and Home considered) at 20 per Cent. more Advantage, during the present War, than the *English*; which must be look'd upon equivalent to a Prohibition of Trade in most Commodities.

The *French* hitherto have not had one Ship taken; and, during the War, 'tis very probable they will have *Spanish* Passes, or they will find some other Way, under the Colour of other Nations, to carry on their Trade, while *England* alone will be excluded and their Navigation lost.

The Fisheries of *Great Britain* and *Newfoundland*, &c. which are consumed in *Spain* and Parts adjacent, are very considerable, and imploy great Numbers of Shipping and many thousand Men; which will be in great Measure lost during the War:

War: And those Fishings may fall into the Hands of other Nations who may have an uninterrupted Trade; and they may at last get it into their Power past retrieve.

And what is all this for? What is *England* to get in the End? Pray let me know what is expected.

Here we plainly see a certain vast Expence of Treasure and Men, and a total Loss of Trade for some Time, and a very uncertain Issue: Is not this done to gratify the Emperor, that he may secure *Bremen* and *Verden* for ———? Here People will believe no other.

As you are a Merchant, I advise you to come and settle in this Place, and bring your Estate with you, and here you will reap the Advantage of a secure and free Trade to all Parts, and may laugh at your Countrymen.

P. S. It may be observ'd, That *England*, who at this Time has so great regard to the Emperor, has a very inconsiderable Trade in his Dominions; often send their Money thither, but never bring any thence.

I am, Sir,

Your, &c.

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